
NECROLOGY

JOHN HALL SAGE died in Boston on August 16, 1925, having passed his seventy-eighth birthday. Mr. Sage was one of the five founders of the Wilson Ornithological Club, and maintained his membership to the day of his death. He was the first of the five to de cease. He was born at Portland, Connecticut, on April 20, 1847, the son of Charles Henry and Eliza Hall Sage. His principal career was in the field of business, in which he occupied numerous high and trusted positions. His services to American ornithology, as an officer in the American Ornithologists' Union and as co-author of the "Birds of Connecticut", are well-known. The writer did not enjoy a personal acquaintance with Mr. Sage but saw him at two of the A. O. U. meetings. On such occasions a stranger was impressed with the kindness and benevolent good-will which radiated from his countenance and unassuming manner. Scientific men, and professional ornithologists in particular, are apt to have a cold, uncompromising, and overbearing attitude in scientific matters, which becomes so fixed and stereotyped a part of the nature that it dominates also in human relations. Mr. Sage was free from this, perhaps because he was an amateur, and lacked the assurance of professionalism. Personality is a tremendous factor in human relations. Ordinarily we do not pause to evaluate it in human life; but after death it stands out in bold relief. Fortunate, then, is the man of whom it can be said that he was good and kind. Such is a stranger's estimate of John H. Sage.

The other four founders of the W. O. C. are Frank L. Burns, Dr. Lynds Jones, Dr. L. Otley Pindar, and Dr. R. M. Strong. It is our desire to publish, during the next year or two, autobiographical sketches of these men. They have all been invited and urged to prepare such.—T. C. STEPHENS.

JAMES BRITTON PURDY died at his home near Plymouth, Michigan, on June 2, 1925, at the age of eighty-two years. Mr. Purdy was a student of the bird life of his state. He had formed a collection of about two hundred mounted birds, and a collection of 1800 birds' eggs, as we learn from members of the family. We understand that he also possessed a valuable ornithological library, containing a number of complete files of minor bird publications which flourished along in the nineties. He was an active member of the Michigan Ornithological Club, and his portrait appears in the Bulletin of that organization, Volume IV, 1903, page 50. He was an associate member of the A. O. U. for over thirty years. We do not find the record that he was ever a member of the W. O. C., but he left a very considerable part of the file of the WILSON BULLETIN, which is now being completed by his daughter, Mrs. Nettie Purdy Moore, who also retains possession of the collections. It is an interesting fact that the farm on which he lived and died has been in the possession of the family for ninety-seven years. Mr. Purdy was born on June 23, 1843.—T. C. STEPHENS.
